

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers is a combination of rayon fiber and superabsorbent fiber, and wherein a ratio of rayon fiber to superabsorbent fiber is about 70/30.

wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

2. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35.

3. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and mixtures thereof.

4. Canceled.

5. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are polyester fibers.

6. Canceled.

7. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are about 0.75 to about 30 denier.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the plurality of absorbent fibers are about 0.75 to about 30 denier.

14. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, further comprising a coverstock.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers is a combination of rayon fiber and superabsorbent fiber.

wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget,

wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

17. Canceled.

18. (Currently amended) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and mixtures thereof; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers is a combination of rayon fiber and superabsorbent fiber present in a percent ratio of rayon fiber to superabsorbent fiber of about 70/30,

~~wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, lyocell, wood pulp, cotton, superabsorbent, and any combinations thereof,~~

wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

19. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 18, wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35.

20. Canceled.

21. Canceled.

22. (Previously presented) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and any combinations thereof; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers made of a combination of rayon fibers and superabsorbent fibers,

wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.